

**LEAD.
FEED.
SHARE.**

Strengthen the impact of the Food Banks Alberta network by sharing best practices, innovations, and essential resources between members, stakeholders, and community partners.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



BECOMING FOOD BANKS ALBERTA – OUR FIRST YEAR

This year marked the first full year of operations of the newly merged provincial association of Food Banks Alberta. After officially merging on November 1, 2016 the Food Banks Alberta Association and its 88 members from all corners of the province began 2017 as a united province-wide entity.

The association made great strides in 2017 working from the new strategic plan, which was developed in the fall of 2016. The resulting work reflects a new sense of connection across the network and the creation of a strong direction for Food Banks Alberta into 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

2017 was a productive, active year for Food Banks Alberta. It was our first year of operating as a “merged organization”. It was a year that saw our board and staff work together to create and begin to implement our solid strategic plan and make gains in strengthening our organization and ability to help our food bank community. It was also a year that saw our organization recognized with the Provincial Innovator Award at 2017 Food Banks Canada conference held in Calgary in June.

It is an honor and a privilege to work alongside the dedicated and passionate board of directors of Food Banks Alberta. Thanks to each one of you for volunteering your time to make Alberta a better place. On behalf of the board I want to thank you, our member food banks, for all of the work you do in your communities to support those who are faced with food insecurity.

Please know that your participation in Food Banks Alberta initiatives, your willingness to share your ideas, best practices, food resources and your willingness to open your food banks to other members and regional meetings has made my job of being the board “Chair” one I hold with much pride. To be able to witness first hand the support you provide in your cities, towns and regions make the role we play as board members a pleasure and an honour. I thank each one of you for the meaningful, valuable work you do.

I also want to thank all the donors and supporters that provide food and financial support that allows our work to continue. Your belief in us as an organization strengthens us, and we value our partnerships with each and every one of you.

Our amazing staff is already off to a very busy start in 2018, meeting the needs of food bank organizations across the province and providing the hands-on support to all in need of the services they provide through the provincial office. Stephanie, we are so thankful to you and your team, for the time, talents and hearts you bring to our organization. We are grateful that you are carrying out our mandate of Lead. Feed. Share. Strengthening the Food Bank Community. Your feet on the ground supporting food banks is truly a gift to our member organizations.

On behalf of each individual, family, community, or organization that has benefitted because you care I say Thank You!

Lori McRitchie
Chair, Food Banks Alberta

SHARING: FOOD DONATIONS

With a new warehouse donated to the association in 2016 and a deep south hub location established in Lethbridge, Food Banks Alberta was well positioned in 2017 to accept and share more food with its members, helping them meet an increase in need.



In 2017, a total of 370,000 lbs of food was donated to the provincial association from a variety of sources. That food was valued at about \$925,000.

With the addition of a walk-in freezer late in 2017, the association was able to accept perishable donations in large quantities for the first time in its history. The first 2 shipments arrived in late 2017 through Food Banks Canada primarily in the form of high quality, nutritious single-serve microwave meals and 10+ pallets of frozen beans. This shipment was valued at \$68,000.

SHARING: FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Members access food donated through the National Food Sharing System (NFSS) from Food Banks Canada, food donated directly to Food Banks Alberta, and food purchased by the provincial association.

Food Banks Alberta distributed 529,000 lbs of food (valued at \$1.3 million) in 2017.

While the majority of the food was shipped from the provincial warehouse in Nisku (397,000 lbs) there was 132,000 lbs shipped through a southern hub warehouse at the Interfaith Food Bank of Lethbridge.

A total of 66 food banks in the province accessed food from the association in 2017.



FOOD PURCHASED FOR MEMBERS

Food Banks Alberta is committed to providing high quality food supplies to its members when they are running low. In 2017 the association purchased **\$99,000** of new non-perishable foods to share directly with members.

Purchased food included staple items like canned fish or meat, peanut butter, pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, oatmeal and soup.

PROVINCIAL RETAIL PARTNER PROGRAMS



96,300 lbs of food shared with **10** food banks



\$68,700 and **36,600 lbs** of food donated to **15** food banks

PRODUCER PARTNERSHIPS



Thanks to Cargill & 7-Eleven, **34,560 dozen eggs** were shared with **27** food banks – a value of **\$39,000**



TURKEY FARMERS
OF CANADA
LES ÉLEVÉS DE DINDON
DU CANADA

\$7,700 donated to help **20** food banks purchase turkeys at Thanksgiving



**EGG FARMERS
OF CANADA**
Dedicated to Quality

6,800 dozen eggs donated – a value of **\$13,600**



Rooted in Freshness.

The new 'Grower Give Back Pack' program generated **40,000 lbs** of fresh produce for food banks



8 food banks received **26,400 lbs** of fresh produce

LOBLAW NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Spring: **47** food banks received **\$100,380**, Food Banks Alberta received **\$20,794**

Holiday: **47** food banks received **\$182,688**, Food Banks Alberta received **\$35,734**



COMPANIES LIMITED
LES COMPAGNIES LOBLAW LIMITÉE

SHARING: FUNDS

Donations to support the association's operations continued to be strong in 2017. The association surpassed its forecasted revenues but maintained expenses to budget for the 4th consecutive year.

Funds are shared with the membership in several ways: provincial program funding to financially assist food banks with expenses like transportation or food purchasing, travel subsidies for training events, and funds donated to the association specifically to be shared with members.

In 2017, Food Banks Alberta shared about **\$370,000** in direct funding with its members.

**Food Banks
Canada**



**Financial support from national donors,
through Food Banks Canada**

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Rural Assistance Fund: **26** food banks received **\$88,700**

Bulk Food Purchase Subsidy: **15** food banks received **\$15,400**

Transportation Subsidy: **12** food banks received **\$12,000**

Fresh Food Fund: **27** food banks received **\$100,000**



CIBC donated **\$125,000** to support provincial programs.



Pembina Pipeline Corporation donated **\$110,000** to support the Fresh Food Fund (accessed by 27 food banks) and provincial programs.



**RBC
Foundation**

RBC Foundation donated **\$75,000** to support the Rural Assistance program and **\$25,000** to support provincial programs

Walmart



Walmart Canada Capacity Boost grant of **\$17,000** – our successful submission out of 74 in all allowed us to purchase and install a 14-pallet capacity freezer at the provincial warehouse in Niksu.



Enterprise donated **\$15,312** – we bought **1,440 dozen** fresh eggs to share with **19** food banks, stored \$7,000 worth of donated frozen food to share with the network and helped install a freezer unit to store frozen donations onsite.



French's donated **\$10,436** – we bought 700 kg of canned fish and 6,900 kg of peanut butter to share with the network.



7-Eleven donated **\$6,200** to share and distribute food with the network.

HUNGER: ALBERTA IN 2017

In Alberta, food bank usage was at an all-time high in 2017.

About 80,000 people visited a food bank in one month. That is the largest number of people to visit food banks in this province in the 37-year history of food banks in Canada.

Since 2008, food bank usage has skyrocketed in Alberta. It has been a decade since the provincial low point of 33,837 individuals were served in a month.

Nearly all food banks in the association reported an increase in food bank usage in 2017.



HELPING HANDS: VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Volunteers in our offices logged 28 hours in administration support and volunteers in our warehouse worked 161 hours. 189 hrs, a value of \$3,780

GET SOCIAL: ONLINE EFFORTS

We are active online and each platform has growing audiences to help us share information about food banks and hunger.

In 2017 our Facebook audience grew by **30%** and so did our reach – each month our posts on food bank activity reached about **15,000 people**. Our total reach was over **180,000**.



In mid-2016 we created our first Instagram account and by the end of 2017 our follower count had increased by **150%**.

Twitter saw steady growth in 2017 and our posts created **300,000 impressions**. We were **re-tweeted more than 500 times** over the year. On average, we make **15,000 impressions** a month through the [@FoodBanksAB](https://twitter.com/FoodBanksAB) twitter account.

Usage of our new website (www.foodbanksalberta.ca) continued to climb through 2017. Of the website users, 87% of those on the site in 2017 were new. There were **27,000-page views** on the site.

ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Food Banks Alberta continues to be an active national partner with Food Banks Canada, its committee work and various activities.

We maintain 2 provincial seats on Network Council. At that table, we are able to bring the issues from Alberta to the national stage.

In 2017, representatives from members volunteered to participate in these Food Banks Canada committees:

- Network Council
- National Advisory Committee on Food
- National Strategic Fundraising Advisory Committee
- National Communication Committee
- National Task Force on Network-Wide Effectiveness
- National 2017 Conference Planning Committee

HOSTING THE NATION: 2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

We were thrilled to host the national food bank conference in Alberta in 2017 – with our partner Calgary Food Bank as the location host. The attendance records for the conference shattered all previous event – due in part to the incredible turnout from Albertan food banks.

Food Banks Alberta was honoured to take home the national **Provincial Innovator Award** and we were so happy to see the Airdrie Food Bank be awarded the Excellence in Food Banking Award.



NEW IN 2017

2016 WILDFIRE RESPONSE WORK CONTINUED

Building on the work the association and its members did around the 2016 Wood Buffalo wildfire recovery, Food Banks Alberta has formed great new partnerships in the disaster recovery assistance sector. We were asked to become a member of the NGO Council – a provincial organization whose members provide assistance in the event of an emergency so that efforts can be coordinated provincially and in partnership with the provincial government.

Food Banks Alberta is well-positioned with the Provincial Emergency Social Services (PESS) arm in the emergency management agency as a key contact in the non-profit assistance sector in the event of another large-scale event in Alberta.

The association is also working closely with our partners in BC and at Food Banks Canada to prepare for the next disaster that may call food banks to action.

The provincial Disaster Task Force was formed in late 2017 to start work on the development of a provincial response and recovery plan for the network of food banks.

MAPPING FOOD BANK SERVICE AREAS

Our 2017 summer student took on the immense project to map and track the service areas of all 88+ member food banks and other food banks located around the province. The project continued well into the next year, but the work has been very insightful.

By having all the service area data compiled in one place, the association was able to start to pinpoint areas of overlap or identify gaps in service. By summer of 2018 all food banks will have their own boundaries mapped, know where neighboring gaps exist and where they may be overlapping their services with another food bank.

MEMBER BENEFITS: PROVINCIAL HEALTH CARE SPENDING PROGRAM

In late 2017 the association launched an extensive survey of its members to determine the need for a comprehensive health benefits plan for employees. By year's end it was obvious there was great interest and the search for a partner provider was underway for a 2018 launch date of the new provincial program.

REGIONAL MEETINGS EXPANDED

2017 saw a resurgence of the very popular regional meetings of food banks. Four successful meetings were held in: Three Hills, High Prairie, Lethbridge and Okotoks, with more 30 food banks participating.

By the fall of 2017 a committee was struck to review feedback on the meetings, suggest changes and pre-plan the 2018 regional meetings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-18

Chair **Lori McRitchie**

1st Vice Chair **Doug Tweddle**

2nd Vice Chair **Alice Kolisnyk**

Secretary **Suzan Krecsy**

Treasurer (Acting) **Doug Tweddle**

Executive Director, Airdrie Food Bank

Account Executive, Foster Park Brokers, Edmonton

Deputy Director, Red Deer Food Bank Society

Executive Director, St. Albert Food Bank

Account Executive, Foster Park Brokers, Edmonton

Director **Barb Reppert**

Director **Arianna Johnson**

Director **Shelby MacLeod**

Director **Paul Van Doren**

Director **Byron Nelson**

Owner, Executive Impact, Edmonton

Executive Director, Wood Buffalo Food Bank

Board Secretary, Lethbridge Food Bank Society

Board President, Three Hills Area Food Bank

Managing Partner, McGuigan Nelson LLP, Calgary

FOOD BANKS ALBERTA MEMBERS 2017-18

Airdrie Food Bank

Athabasca Good Samaritan Ministries Association

Banff Food Bank

Barrhead Family and Community Support Services

Bashaw and District Food Bank

Beaverlodge Christmas Hamper & Food Bank

Blackfalds Food Bank Society

Bon Accord/Gibbons Food Bank

Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre

Bow Valley Food Bank Society

Breton Faith Covenant Church Food Bank

Brooks Food Bank Foundation

Calgary Food Bank

Campus Food Bank (University of Alberta)

Camrose Neighbor Aid Center Food Bank

Chestermere Regional Food Bank

Claresholm Food Bank

Coaldale Food Bank

Cochrane Food Bank

Cold Lake Food Bank Society

Community Kitchen Program of Calgary

Coronation & District Food Bank Society

County of 40 Mile Ministerial Food Bank

Crowsnest Pass Food Bank Society

Drumheller Salvation Army Food Bank

Edmonton's Food Bank

Edson Food Bank Society

Fairview Food Bank Association

Flagstaff Food Bank

Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank

Fox Creek Food Bank Society

High Level Native Friendship Centre

High Prairie & District Food Bank Society

Hinton Food Bank Association

Hythe and District Food Bank

Innisfail Food Bank

Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge

Ittasinno'P Food Bank Centre

Iyahrhe Nakoda Food Bank Society

Jasper Food Bank Society

Kainai Food Bank Society

Lac Ste. Anne East Food Bank Society

Lacombe Community Food Bank

Lamont Hamper Committee

Leduc & District Food Bank Association

Lethbridge Food Bank

Manning Food Bank

McMan, Youth, Family & Community Services Association

Medicine Hat and District Food Bank

Millet Community Food Bank

Morinville Food Bank Society

Mountain View Food Bank Society

North County Interfaith Outreach Society

Okotoks Food Bank

Parkland Food Bank Society

Ponoka Food Bank

Red Deer Food Bank Society

Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank

Rhema Food Bank

Rimbey Food Bank

Samson Food Bank Society

Smoky Lake Food Bank Society

St. Albert Food Bank and Community Village

St. Paul & District Food Bank

Stettler & District Food Bank Society

Strathcona Food Bank Association

Taber Food Bank Society

The Lord's Food Bank Rocky Mountain House Society

Three Hills Area Food Bank Society

Tofield-Ryley and Area Food Bank Society

Trochu & District Inter-Church Food Bank Society

Turner Valley and District Food Bank Association

Vauxhall & Area Food Bank Society

Vegreville Food Bank Society

Viking and Holden Area Food Bank

Vulcan Regional Food Bank Society

Wainwright Battle River Food Bank

Waskaysoo Community Food Bank

WEE Community Food Bank

Westlock & District Food Bank Association

Wheatland County Food Bank Society

Whitecourt Interagency Food Bank

Wood Buffalo Food Bank Association

“As a small food bank, our membership with Food Banks Alberta provides us with the opportunity to come together with other food banks to collaborate in our fight against hunger.”

Okotoks Food Bank Association

“The support of Food Banks Alberta has been a huge benefit to our organization. Their focus on helping all food banks in Alberta has made a huge difference for all.”

Leduc & District Food Bank Association

“Food Banks Alberta provides financial support, but more than that they act as a coordinating body and resource hub to give us the tools we need to make the change we want to see in our community!”

Medicine Hat and District Food Bank

